—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
RAYMOND C. DOBSON
Skeptic about probe.

# N.D. PUBLISHER TALKS OF PROBE

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## 'Skepticism' Seen in Midwest, He Says

By STAN RESNICK

A Mid-Western newspaper publisher said in New Orleans Sunday his editorial staff is skeptical about District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination probe.

"We hesitated to pass prejudgment on the case, but we've been scratching our heads in wonderment over it," said Raymond C. Dobson, editor and publisher of the Minot, N.D., Daily News.

Dobson said his paper gave the story of the district attorney's investigation of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy front page play. He said the News tried to present both sides of the story.

"We wasted a lot of ink on it," he commented wryly.

Dobson, who is national president of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, is in New Orleans on a visit to lodges in Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi.

As grand exalted ruler of U.S. Elks state convention Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Shreveport.

Dobson said he would rest in New Orleans until Tuesday, then visit lodges in Baton Rouge and Plaquemines before going on to Shreveport.

He said he found much concern about the war in Vietnam as he traveled through the country this year on the organization's business. Dobson said he has traveled 83,000 miles and visited 46 states since he was elected Elks' potentate last July.

The Mid-Western newspaperman said there is a feeling of uneasiness about the war all over the nation.

"The feeling in North Dakota," he said, "is we're into it and we've got to finish it, but there is a definite feeling that we should get out as fast as we can."

Dobson, who arrived in New Orleans Sunday, said he was given a map showing the location of new industry in New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana.

"What's happening in industrial growth in this area is fantastic," he said.

Dobson had nothing but kind words to say for the work of the Louisiana Elk Organizations.

### RECENT YEAR

He said that in the most recent year for which figures are available, 1965-66, Elk lodges here contributed about $26,000 to welfare and charity work, and $7,500 to the Southern Eye Bank.

Dobson said the BPOE was a fraternal organization which emphasized fellowship and service to the community.

"To put it in plain language, the purpose of the Elks is to do good," he said.

Asked about the future of small-town newspapers, he said that Minot, estimated population 35,000 in 1966, is considered a big city in a state made up mainly of small towns.

"First of all," Dobson continued, "let's talk about the future of small towns. It's a disturbing thing to see the big towns getting bigger and the small ones getting smaller. "Some of the best living in the world" he said, "is in the small town."